IN TOUCH with Career Planning and Placement

Attention graduates: Early bird could get the worm

oon you'll be a college graduate and ready to hit the real world.

You have a freshly printed resume, a semi-designer suit and a crisp diploma.

However, it could happen that after your third or your fifth or your twentieth interview, you realize that you'll have a harder time finding a job than you expected.

Competition is stiff in the job-search stratosphere, and in many cases, a silk tie and that degree are no longer enough to assure potential employers that a graduate will know what he or she is doing if given a job.

True, it is often enough to know that the potential employee has the stuff to make it through a B.A. program, but more and more, practical experience is the key to unlocking the door to employment.

That's why an internship is one of the most significant ways to boost your "hireability." But how to go about getting one is the first question.

Enter: The Career Development Internship Program,

Headed by Charlene Phipps and Deb Chereck, this program is the perfect place for hopeful interns to get started.

Open to juniors and seniors, the program can help students find an internship in their respective fields or perhaps earn credit for an internship the student may already have

In order to start the process of finding an internship, students should make an individual appointment with Phipps or Chereck.

The next step is to peruse their notebooks full of internship opportunities for the appropriate position.

"The opportunities are very eclectic," says Chereck, director of the program. "We have listings from a lot of different companies."

Often internships can turn into full-time, paid positions once the student graduates.

Of students who have gone through the Internship Program, Chereck says many have stayed on as paid employees after their internship period was over.

Even if the student isn't asked to stay on with the company, Chereck reminds that contacts made are often crucial for job searching elsewhere.

Chereck also stresses that the knowledge gained and resulting confidence from the internship experience, translates into a graduate who has great interview ammunition.

Appointments can be made with the Career Development Internship Program at the Career Planning office, 244 Hendricks Hall, and they should be made early.

The program fills internships for the following term and those positions fill quickly, so it is strongly recommended that students don't maintain the old "hurry up and wait" attitude.

A summer program is now being formed, and now is the perfect time get the process rolling and find an internship for the summer months.

Whichever road the student takes, the Career Development Internship Program is an opportunity no junior or senior can afford to miss.

This could just be that extra edge that may eventually help you land the job of your dreams.

- Sarah Pagliasotti



